One of These May Be "First Lady of the Land"; Any of Them Would Adorn the Post

MRS. WOODROW WILSON.

MRS. TAFT.
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MRS FOSS AND HER TWIN CHILDREN

MRS. THOMAS MARSHALL.

MRS ROBERT M LAFOLLETTE

MRS. CHAMP CLARK.
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MRS. OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD.
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MRS. JUDSON HARMON.

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AMONG candidates for the exalted station of "first lady of the land" (for the 1913-'17 term) there are, besides Mrs. Taft, seven American women who now loom upon the political horizon as "possibilities," to say the least.

All of them, like Mrs. Taft, are women of great culture. An appreciable share of their husband's chances for success in the race for the Presidential nomination depends upon their own tact, diplomacy and charm. The lofty rank to which their husbands wish to elevate them is not reached entirely through the accident of marriage.

Two names now familiar to readers of the current newspapers and periodicals are Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Mrs. Wilson Woodrow. Each of these ladies is both scholar and writer, although the name of the former is seen more often in the body of a published article than at the top. As the wife of the Governor of New Jersey and one of the most active candidates for the Presidential nomination she is better known than for her literary works, which have nearly all been anonymous contributions to the deeper magazines—book reviews mostly and jottings which have been inspired more by the love of industry than the love of glory.

Like the husband, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson is a scholar by instinct, and a full quarter century spent at his side, when he was college professor and college president, has left her keen intellect sharp. During all of these years when she lived in college towns and participated in the intellectual life of college faculties she has kept abreast of the deeper problems that interested the world of art, science and letters. As a Greek and Latin scholar she has developed a special penchant, and she can read the ancient classics in those dead languages as readily as she can browse through current fiction in English.

Another parallel between her and her husband is that she is the child of a Presbyterian minister. Moreover, she is a granddaughter of a minister of that faith. It was at the home of her grandfather, the Rev. Dr. I. S. K. Axson, of Savannah, Ga., that she married, in June, 1885, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, who has since thought best to cancel the first third of his name. Her father, the Rev. Edward Axson, died before her wedding day, and her grandfather at the time was pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Savannah.

The wedding ceremony was performed by both the bridegroom's father and the bride's grandfather; then, following their honeymoon, the young couple went to live in Pennsylvania, where Dr. Wilson began his pedagogical career as professor of history and political economy at Bryn Mawr College.

In the teachers' colony of this famous women's college Mrs. Wilson spent the first three years of her married life, which were followed by four years of life in that of Wesleyan University, where Woodrow Wilson held the chair first of history and political economy, but later that of jurisprudence and politics. It was in the late summer of 1902 that the little family moved to the professor's alma mater, Princeton, where Governor Wilson became professor of jurisprudence and politics and two years later assumed the presidency of the university. Thus for twenty-five years Mrs. Wilson lived in the college atmosphere, in which she reared her three daughters, the Misses Eleanor Randolph, Margaret and Jessie Woodrow, whose ages range between the late teens and early twenties.

The same sort of practical training for the station of "first lady of the land" has been enjoyed by Mrs. Judson Harmon, the wife of Dr. Wilson's active rival for the Presidential nomination. No official home is as comparable with the White House as is a state executive mansion, and Mrs. Harmon has been the chatelaine of such an establishment for three years. She has also experienced at the National Capitol the great social responsibilities of a Cabinet hostess, upon whom always falls a greater share of Washington official hospitality than is expected of any woman other than the mistress of the White House herself.

During the year and nine months that her husband spent in the last Cleveland Cabinet Mrs. Harmon kept open house on K street, opposite Franklin Park, where she was a near neighbor and intimate friend of the wife and daughter of her fellow Ohioan, John Sherman, then a great power in the Senate.

Mrs. Harmon and her husband were both reared in the environs of Cincinnati, his father being a Methodist minister and hers a physician, Dr. William H. Scoby, of Hamilton. When they were married, in June, 1870, Mr. Harmon was a young barrister of twenty-four, who had been out of the Cincinnati Law School only a year.

The young couple settled down in Wyoming, a suburb of Cincinnati, of which young Harmon became Mayor, and thus it might be said that she had some experience as an executive's wife when scarcely out of her girlhood. But her social responsibilities were not greatly enlarged by this, her husband's first political office, for the village of Wyoming then boasted of a population less than 2,000. In the year following, when elected Common Pleas judge in Cincinnati, his consort began to find her social activity expanding, and it grew during the twelve years that he sat on the bench—later as judge of the Superior Court. During these and succeeding years Mrs. Harmon has been a favorite in Cincinnati drawing rooms. Like that of Mrs. Wilson, her family consists of three daughters: Mrs. Edward L. Wright, who was a wife when her father sat in the Cleveland Cabinet, and Mrs. George Lemon Cassatt and Mrs. Alfred Cassatt.

If there is magic in being a seventh child, Mrs. Champ Clark, the clever and witty wife of the Speaker, is possessed of esoteric powers. She was reared upon the farm of her father, Joel D. Bennett, of Callaway County, Mo., and received her early education from her sister, who was teacher at the neighboring schoolhouse. She confesses to having grown up as a "rather bookish" young woman, and this was in the days before her marriage, when she shared her sister's calling and, like Mrs. Taft, taught school for a time.

In a neighboring town a young man, then known as James Beauchamp Clark (but who has since amputated his front name and half of his second name), was also engaged in teaching school, practising law and running a newspaper.

They were married thirty-one years ago, at which time the future Speaker began to run for Congress, which he reached a dozen years later.

Mrs. Clark, like Mrs. Wilson, has been a writer. Until her husband became conspicuous in public affairs she contributed to the newspapers and magazines, and at the same time cared for her babies and became an authority on fine cookery—one so high, indeed, that her recipes for delicacies are now in wide demand. At her rambling country home, Honeyshuck, at Bowling Green, Mo., she dispenses hospitality throughout the summer months to her husband's political friends from far and near, and this sort of entertaining is a test of any wife's tact and social endurance.

Within a few days of Champ Clark's first election to Congress there arrived in the household a little daughter, who received her mother's name, Genevieve Bennett. This bright child has since been her mother's inseparable companion, and is now seventeen. Should her father be elected to the highest office, she would be just of debutante age upon taking up her abode in the White House. She inherits a love of books from both parents, and, like her mother, she can cook like a veteran. She and her older brother, Bennett, who is now a student of the University of Missouri, have been reared according to their mother's original theories as to development of responsibility and self-control. They select their own clothes, plan their own holidays and study their lessons in their own time, parental intervention being employed only in cases of very apparent bad judgment. As a result they have developed self-reliance and studious habits.

Another Southern matron, who, according to some of the political prophets, has a chance of becoming the first lady of the land, is Mrs. Oscar W. Underwood, wife of the powerful chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means. She was Miss Bertha Woodward, daughter of Simpson Henry Woodward, the Carnegie of the great Southern iron country centring about Birmingham, Ala. Her parents' home, in the fashionable Highlands section of that city, is at the foot of the Red Mountain, which, it is estimated, would supply the world with all its needed iron for three hundred and sixty years.

Mrs. Underwood's early ambition was to go upon the operatic stage. While in a seminary in Cincinnati she began her musical education in the conservatory of that city, and soon developed a coloratura soprano voice of high range. After continuing her vocal studies in New York and Boston she went to Paris and took a course under Peixotti, and while in the French capital received an offer for the stage which her father emphatically forbade her accepting. Instead, he summoned her home forthwith, and it was some time before she could reconcile herself to the social career which her parents had planned for her.

While visiting Asheville, N. C., in the summer of 1904, she received a visit from Representative Underwood, who had been courting her for some time. He had just been summoned North to take the stump for the Democrats in the Parker campaign, and as there were no prospects of seeing her again in several months he proposed that they marry at once and go North together. After some hesitation Miss Woodward consented, and they were wedded that day, starting out at once upon what was a honeymoon and campaign tour combined. Mr. Underwood was at the time a widower of four years, with two boys, one of whom is now in the iron business in Birmingham, the other being a law student in the University of Virginia.

Two other matrons who are looked upon by some political wiseacres as possible first ladies of the land are Mrs. Eugene Foss, wife of the Governor of Massachusetts, and Mrs. Thomas Marshall, consort of Indiana's executive. Like Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Harmon, the experience which they are receiving as entertainers of state executive mansions would prove to be invaluable training for the exalted station of mistress of the White House.

The Fosses are Baptists and their chief pride is in their beautiful twin daughters, the Misses Esther and Helen, who in about another year will make their debut. The family includes also two sons, Benjamin and Noble.

It is the proud boast of Mrs. Tom Marshall that she has never been away from her husband twenty-four hours since their marriage, more than sixteen years ago. She was formerly Miss Lois I. Kimsey, of Angola, Ind., and he was a bachelor of forty-one when they were wedded. Until three and a half years ago she never aspired to any greater social responsibility than that of the wife of a country lawyer in a village of 2,000 population, for the governorship was the first office to which her husband ever had ambitions. Her experience as the mistress of the Indiana executive mansion has now extended over three years, and her manner of dispensing hospitality has added greatly to her husband's popularity.

A suffragette and "new woman," intellectually speaking, would be the next mistress of the White House were the little insurgent general La Follette to wrest the Republican nomination from Mr. Taft and gain a further victory at the polls next November. Mrs. La Follette is a law graduate, stump speaker and daily contributer to the newspapers.

Mrs. La Follette, too, has served an apprenticeship as chatelaine of an executive mansion, for her husband was Governor of Wisconsin from 1901 until 1906.